

those affected by recent hurricanes, created charitable foundations, visited schools, mentored students, worked in homeless shelters, cleaned up parks, and put in hours of their personal time toward improving their communities and the lives of those around them. That's the spirit in which this nation was founded, and we all need to work tirelessly to bring people together to take on the challenges that face us and give back to the people of our communities. More so than any result on the field, that is a common goal worth rooting for."

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS HEAD COACH PETE CARROLL

"In this incredibly polarizing time, there's no longer a place to sit silently. It's time to take a stand. We stand for love and justice and civility. We stand for our players and their constitutional rights, just as we stand for equality for all people. We stand against divisiveness and hate and dehumanization. We are in the midst of a tremendously challenging time, a time longing for healing. Change needs to happen; we will stand for change. May we all have the courage to take a stand for our beliefs while not diminishing the rights of others, as this is the beating heart of our democracy. As a team, we are united in a mission to bring people together to help create positive change. We can no longer remain silent. I will stand with our players."

TWEETS FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
Many people booed the players who kneeled yesterday (which was a small percentage of total) These are fans who demand respect for our Flag! 7:31 AM—Sep. 25, 2017.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
The issue of kneeling has nothing to do with race. It is about respect for our Country, Flag and National Anthem. NFL must respect this! 7:39 AM—Sep. 25, 2017.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
So proud of NASCAR and its supporters and fans. They won't put up with disrespecting our Country or our Flag—they said it loud and clear! 7:25 AM—Sep. 25, 2017.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
Sports fans should never condone players that do not stand proud for their National Anthem or their Country. NFL should change policy! 6:25 PM—Sep. 24, 2017.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
If NFL fans refuse to go to games until players stop disrespecting our Flag & Country, you will see change take place fast. Fire or suspend! 6:44 AM—Sep. 24, 2017.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect . . . 2:11 PM—Sep. 23, 2017.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
. . . our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do! 2:18 PM—Sep. 23, 2017.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
Roger Goodell of NFL just put out a statement trying to justify the total disrespect certain players show to our country. Tell them to stand! 6:25 PM—Sep. 23, 2017.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President, and to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, back in March, the Congressional Black Caucus met with President Trump to deliver a 130-page policy document which highlighted a host of issues facing the black community in America. From voting rights to

criminal justice reform, and economic justice to education and the workforce, there are many areas of society that still experience elements of institutionalized racism and discrimination against people of color and other vulnerable segments of the population.

The undermining of the Voting Rights Act in the wake of the Shelby County Supreme Court decision paved the way for countless states, including Texas, to adopt discriminatory voting laws that were aimed at disenfranchising entire segments of the population. Participation in our elections and the inalienable right to vote are fundamental pillars of our democracy. Our democracy does not function properly without the successful and unimpeded participation of the voting public. Yet, these discriminatory voting laws have been found to do exactly that, while disproportionately affecting minority populations, the elderly, and the poor.

The criminal justice system is another area that is ripe for reform as we consider the fact that African Americans make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population, yet account for 37 percent of prison inmates. In some instances, harsh mandatory minimum sentences condemn relatively minor criminals to a life behind bars. In other examples, we see non-violent drug offenders facing decades in prison over a crime that is better addressed by health professionals, not the criminal justice system. The use of private prisons in states such as Texas has also created a dangerous profit motive behind keeping individuals incarcerated. These toxic conditions are a recipe for disaster that has propelled the United States as the world leader for its prison population rate.

Mr. Speaker, there is much that we can do as a nation to root out any last remnants of racism in our country and address many of these issues. However, it requires the participation and cooperation of a wide range of stakeholder, regardless of party affiliation or background. Restoring Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act through legislation would help address many of the discriminatory voting laws that we have seen emerge, thereby restoring full access to voting for every American. Eliminating mandatory minimum sentencing and treating non-violent drug offenses as a health issue instead of a criminal matter would help reduce the prison population while giving law-abiding citizens a well-deserved second chance. These are tangible steps that we can take today to lessen the racial disparities that exist in our society. I encourage each of my colleagues to work cooperatively to achieve this end. The American people demand it, and we will be a better nation for it.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of official business in the State.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending to spouse's health issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the

House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2622. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James B. Laster, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2623. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice of mobilizations of Selected Reserve units from October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 12304(b)(4); Public Law 112-81, Sec. 516(a)(1); (125 Stat. 1396); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2624. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Annual Report to the Congress on the Presidential \$1 Coin Program, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5112(p)(3)(B); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 109-145, Sec. 104); (119 Stat. 2670); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2625. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Report on Notifications of Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents and Toxins for calendar year 2016, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 8401(k); Pub. L. 107-188, Sec. 212(k); (116 Stat. 656); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2626. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2017 Update", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 11225(g); Public Law 111-375, Sec. 2(g); (124 Stat. 4102); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2627. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Declaration of a Public Health Emergency and Waiver and/or Modification of Certain HIPAA, and Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program Requirements (Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630) and 42 U.S.C. 1320b-5(d); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, Sec. 1135(d) (as added by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 143(a)); (116 Stat. 628); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2628. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Ninth Review of the Backlog of Postmarketing Requirements and Postmarketing Commitments, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 355(k)(5)(B); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 505(k)(5)(B) (as added by Public Law 110-85, Sec. 921); (121 Stat. 962); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2629. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-